

DR JUDITH JOHNSON

Job title

Lecturer

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COURSES

Writing for Performance, BA

PROFILE

I am a playwright, teacher, dramaturg and academic.

I studied Creative and Performing Arts at Newcastle Polytechnic in the 1980s, and obtained my PGCT in Teaching (Secondary, Drama) from Goldsmiths College in 1988. I completed my PhD in Playwriting at the University of Essex in 2020.

I taught Playwriting at the University of Essex, the University of Greenwich and Leeds Trinity, before joining Central in 2017 – first as a Visiting Lecturer and, since 2022, as a Lecturer on the BA Writing for Performance.

Prior to this, I taught Creative Writing at Idea Stores Tower Hamlets from 2012-2016; I was a Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University of Greenwich and Bromley-By-Bow Centre/UEL, 2007-2016; and I was a Royal Literary Fund Reading Round Lector in Harlow and Tower Hamlets, 2014-2017.

Patron, Razed Roof Inclusive Theatre Company, Harlow Playhouse.

Playwriting advisor/dramaturg Theatre of Debate, London.

CHASE funded PhD candidate.

2023, Theatre 503 Silent Approach Masterclass: Introductory Talk for Separate Doors

2021/2022, Masterclass: Derby Theatre and Chichester Theatre, writing for learning-disabled led theatre (for Separate Door's *Writing Tomorrow's Theatre* project).

July 2018, Hand in Hand? Writing and Performance-Making in Learning Disability Theatre: a symposium hosted by University of Essex and supported by CHASE, Convenor, and introductory lecture.

April 2018, Addressing Access: Widening Participation Conference. Gave talk about writing for learning-disabled led theatre.

December 2017, CHASE Encounters Conference. Gave talk about my research in writing for learning-disabled led theatre

June 2017, University of Essex Lifts Department: PhD Conference. Gave talk about my research in learning-disabled led theatre.

Various Arts Council awards/funding over my 30 plus years career in playwriting, including a substantial Arts Council award for my musical *Goodbye Barcelona* co-written with Karl Lewkowicz.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Learning-disabled led theatre
- Applied theatre
- Playwriting

EXTERNAL PRACTICE

I have been a playwright since the late 1980s. My work has been produced in many venues including *Uganda* (Royal Court), *Scary Play* (National Theatre Connections), and the musical *Goodbye Barcelona* written with Karl Lewkowicz (Arcola Theatre, Teatre del Raval, Barcelona). I am a playwright and writing advisor for Theatre of Debate (ToD) who produce plays and educational programmes exploring issues of health and science. I have written several plays for ToD, most recently two online monologues, *Important Person* and *Hugs*, for the Theatre of Debate/National Institute of Health Research (UK) initiative 'Covid and Me'.

I have taught playwriting in myriad places and spaces, including Turkey and Brazil (both British Council funded), for Clean Break theatre company in London, and for the Arvon Centre, Scotland.

I am also patron and playwright for Razed Roof Inclusive Theatre Company, working with people with learning disabilities. I have written five plays with the company including *Trisomy 21*, which premiered at Harlow Playhouse Theatre in 2018 and formed part of my PhD studies.

I am New Writing Associate for Separate Doors, a new organisation working to increase the representation of people with learning disabilities in theatre, film and TV.

Published Plays

1993. *Somewhere*, in 'Frontline Intelligence Volume 1' (London: Methuen)

1995. *Stone Moon*, in 'Making Scenes 1' (London: Methuen)

1995 *Uganda* in 'Frontline Intelligence Volume 3' (London: Methuen)

2004. *The Willow Pattern* in 'Shell Connections New Plays for Young People' (London: Harper Collins)

2004. *The Willow Pattern* (Assembly Version) (Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke)

2005. *The Willow Pattern* (London: Harper Collins)

2006. *Every Breath* (London: Oberon)

2007. *Scary Play* in NT Connections New Plays for Young People (London: Faber/NT)

2007. *Scary Play* (London: Harper Collins)

Recent Productions

2023 (Dramaturg) *Directing Tomorrow's Theatre*, Separate Doors

2022 (Playwright) *Uncle's Tooth*, Theatre of Debate and Leeds University School of Dentistry.

2021/22 (Dramaturg) *Writing Tomorrow's Theatre*, Separate Doors

January 2021 (Playwright) *Hugs*, online monologue commissioned by the National Institute of Health Research and Theatre of Debate

July 2020 (Playwright) *Important Person*, online monologue commissioned by the National Institute of Health Research and Theatre of Debate.

2019 (Playwright) *Don't Smile*, Theatre of Debate and Leeds University School of Dentistry, winner of a Public Engagement with Research Award.

2018 (Playwright) *Trisomy 21*, Razed Roof at Harlow Playhouse.

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.

Important Person, an online monologue written for Theatre of Debate and the National Institute of Health Research

IMAGE GALLERY
